Wallace's ride to the hospital

By Philip W. Smith
Newhouse News Service

SILVER SPRING, Md.—"Where did they hit me?"

These were the first words of Alabama Gov. George Wallace as he was placed in a Prince Georges County (Maryland) Rescue Squad ambulance that rushed him to Holy Cross Hospital here Monday afternoon.

Emmett Eaton of Montgomery, Ala., a campaign aide to Wallace, said he answered: "It's all in the right side, and you're OK."

Eaton, executive director of the Alabama Commission on Aging, was one of three Wallace assistants who, with Mrs. Wallace, jammed into the ambulance. Eaton gave this account of Wallace's reactions during the ambulance ride:

"Several times during the trip, the governor looked up and asked, how much further to the hospital? Another time he said, get a pillow and put it under my head."

EATON SAID WALLACE WAS CONSCIOUS and alert — "very calm" — during the ambulance ride, although he was "obviously in pain.

"Just before we got to the hospital he said have them give me a shot. You could tell he was hurting."

During the trip, Eaton ripped off Wallace's shirt and saw a bullet wound in the governor's right shoulder. Earlier, he had noticed three other wounds, he said.

Eaton said Wallace appeared concerned about Alabama State Police Capt. E. C. Dothard, who also was shot and was in the ambulance alongside Wallace.

"One time the governor looked at the captain and gave the OK signal — you know, with thumb and forefinger," Eaton said.